CLAIMS

1.      A controller for a packet processing system, configured to:

(a)     receive signal quality information about a plurality of data streams;

(b)     based on the signal quality information, to select one of the plurality of

5    data streams to be forwarded independently of the controller.

2.      The controller as recited in claim 1, wherein the data streams are associated with a call session from a remote device, and the controller is configured to select only one data stream to be forwarded.

3.      The controller as recited in claim 2, wherein the data streams are

10    associated with a plurality of call sessions from remote devices, and the controller is configured to select only one data stream to be forwarded for each call session.

4.      The controller as recited in claim 2, wherein the controller is configured to receive the signal quality information from a plurality of base transceiver stations in communication with the remote device.

15    5.      The controller as recited in claim 4, wherein the controller is configured to direct one of the base transceiver stations to forward its data stream to a network device.

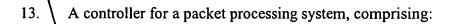6.      The controller as recited in claim 5, wherein the data stream comprises packets using internet protocol.

7.	The controller as recited in claim 5, further configured to provide a multicast address to the network device for transmitting a data stream.

8.	The controller as recited in claim 7, further configured to instruct a base transceiver station to receive the data stream at the multicast address.

9.	The controller as recited in claim 8, wherein the data stream comprises packets using internet protocol.

10.	The controller as recited in claim 1, further configured to establish a multicast address for issuing commands to a plurality of base transceiver stations.

11.	A method for processing packets, comprising the steps of:

(a)	receiving signal quality information about a plurality of data streams;

(b)	selecting, based on the signal quality information, one of the plurality of data streams to be forwarded independently of the controller.

12.	A computer program product for processing packets, comprising a computer usable medium having machine readable code embodied therein for performing the steps of:

(a)	receiving signal quality information about a plurality of data streams;

(b)	selecting, based on the signal quality information, one of the plurality of data streams to be forwarded independently of the controller.

13.    A controller for a packet processing system, comprising:

(a)    means for receiving signal quality information about a plurality of data streams; and

(b)    means for selecting one of the plurality of data streams to be forwarded

5    independently of the controller, based on the signal quality information.

14.    The controller as recited in claim 13, wherein the data streams are associated with a call session from a remote device, and the means for selecting is configured to select only one data stream to be forwarded.

15.    The controller as recited in claim 14, wherein the data streams are

10    associated with a plurality of call sessions from remote devices, and the means for selecting is configured to select only one data stream to be forwarded for each call session.

16.    The controller as recited in claim 14, wherein the means for receiving signal quality information comprises means for receiving the signal quality information

15    from a plurality of base transceiver stations in communication with the remote device.

17.    The controller as recited in claim 16, further comprising means for directing one of the base transceiver stations to forward its data stream to a network device.

18.    The controller as recited in claim 17, wherein the data stream comprises

20    packets using internet protocol.

19.     The controller as recited in claim 17, further comprising means for providing a multicast address to the network device for transmitting a data stream.

20.     The controller as recited in claim 19, further comprising means for instructing a base transceiver station to receive the data stream at the multicast address.

5       21.     The controller as recited in claim 20, wherein the data stream comprises packets using internet protocol.

22.     The controller as recited in claim 13, further comprising means for establishing a multicast address for issuing commands to a plurality of base transceiver stations.